



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas, 18th District

Vice-Chair, Finance & Audit Committee

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For Immediate Release

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REWRITING THE STATE OF THE COUNTY

Milwaukee, WI – County Supervisor Johnny L. Thomas released the following statement in response to County Executive Scott Walker’s State of the County speech earlier this week:

“After hearing County Executive Scott Walker’s State of the County rhetoric on Monday, I wanted to scream. His solutions to the struggling economy are tax cuts, selling County assets, and moving the mental health complex to the former St. Michael Hospital to benefit supporters like WEAS Development.

“Given the rising unemployment rate, the County Executive appears to be out of touch. For those who were just laid off, tax cuts are useless and will not put more money into their pockets. Furthermore, the sales tax holiday isn't possible without a change in state law. An average household would have to spend \$60,000 over the next nine months to see the \$3,000 in sales tax savings the County Executive is touting. Let’s review: No job, no income, no tax savings.

“Scott Walker refused to apply for stimulus funds and instead relied on the leadership of the County Board to step in on behalf of Milwaukee County residents. With the stimulus funds now in sight, the County Executive is flip-flopping by calling on the Governor and Legislature to stimulate Milwaukee County’s economy.

“Even though the County Executive’s objectives sound good, they are unrealistic and will not achieve our goals. Milwaukee County voters are well aware of Scott Walker’s arguments concerning the economy. They want new solutions. That’s why, in November, they approved our plan to provide property tax relief and dedicated funding for transit, parks, and paramedics. That’s what real change and economic stimulus is all about.”

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